

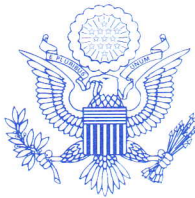
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Congress of the United States**House of Representatives****Washington, DC 20515-0502**

February 23, 2009

Donald Glaser
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Dear Mr. Glaser,

As you are certainly aware, the State of California is being faced with some of the most dire water conditions to hit the state in many years. With an ongoing severe drought and various stakeholders exerting more demand for this precious resource than can be supplied, I am deeply concerned - as I am sure your agency is as well - that farmers and ranchers will have their water rights usurped in order to satisfy court-ordered demands for environmental purposes and Endangered Species Act compliance.

This concern has already become self-evident with the Bureau's release last week of this water year's Central Valley Project allocations, by which many of our agricultural users will be allotted *no water for Water Year '09*. This news is made further troubling by the fact that refuges and other environmental uses will receive up to 75% of their usual allotment. While species protection is certainly a laudable goal, I have long advocated that it need not be mutually exclusive with respect to agriculture and other land-uses. I therefore strongly urge the Bureau to utilize any authorities within its power to make these allocations more equitable.

In light of the drought and stretched water needs, many of my constituents have raised concerns whether the decisions regarding water for environmental purposes - particularly the 800,000 acre feet of "B2" water - are being continually monitored to ensure that they are justified by sound science. For these reasons I would appreciate a response from the Bureau regarding the following:

- 1) Historical allocation of the B2 water from enactment of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to present.
- 2) Specific fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration that the water has been allocated to benefit.

- 3) Have there been any species whose recovery can be directly attributed to an allocation of B2 water? If so, is there further scientific evidence that a continued allocation is necessary?
- 4) Are there species that have not improved even with an allocation of water and if so are they still receiving this water? Is there scientific justification for further allotment?

Furthermore, I would like to inquire as to the status of the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage (NODOS) feasibility report. This report is essential to pursuing additional water storage opportunities, particularly the Sites reservoir and other storage projects. I would implore the new Administration to conduct its review and approval of this report as expeditiously as possible. Obviously, additional water storage is going to be paramount to addressing California's increasing water needs in the future and the NODOS feasibility report is an important first step towards pursuing those available opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your attention and assistance in this matter. Let me also express my appreciation and support for the Bureau of Reclamation and its efforts in water management in such difficult regulatory and climatic conditions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

Don - Thanks for working with us
on this.

